- Besides the inintial, one time spectrum charge, it has been decided that the successful service provider would pay additional spectrum charge of 0.5% of their total Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), as the recurring annual spectrum charge. The additional revenue share is proposed to be 1% of AGR after 3 year from the date of spectrum assignment.
- The roll out requirements, including rural roll-out, as well as stiff penalities for non compliance of the same has been stipulated.
- Mergers will not be allowed during the initial five years. No trading/reselling of spectrum is allowed.
- The CDMA spectrum in 800 MHz band for EV-DO applications would be treated separately from 2.1 GHz spectrum. If the CDMA based service provides(s) ask for the EV-DO carrier of 2 x 1.25 MHz they would have to pay an amount proportionate to the highest bid for spectrum in 2.1 GHz band.

Resentment against the Communication Policy

†1798. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made comprehensive changes in the communication policy during the recent past;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there is resentment amongst the members of Cellular Operators Association of India due to the said changes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the after effects of the said changes; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to defuse this resentment, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) On 17.10.2007, Government has taken a decision on the recommendations dated 28.8.2007 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on "Review of license terms & conditions and capping of number of access providers". TRAI has made the said recommendation after following a consultation process with the stakeholders including Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).

COAI and others have challenged the Government decision on these recommendations in telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and the matter is *sub-judice.*

Growth in Information Technology

†1799. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) whether Government is aware that the growth of big companies in the information technology sector is 40 per cent whereas the growth of small companies in this sector is only 20 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons behind the difference between the growth rate of big and small companies in the industry; and

(c) the basis on which big and small companies have been categorized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the larger companies have reported relatively higher growth rates compared to smaller companies in Financial Year 2007. There could be several reasons for this, which include: their ability to bid for larger deals (which smaller companies are often not qualified to bid for).

As per Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), the growth of big companies is higher based on their export performance in the recent years. The reasons for higher growth rate of big companies include: Brand Value, diversified expertise, capability to serve client across the globe in different geography. On the other hand small companies in the IT industry are addressing only niche markets/expertise, and are able to serve only to particular geography, which also result in limited growth.

As per the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC), the turnover of companies in general is taken as criteria for the categorization.

Telephone Advisory Committee of Madhubani, Bihar

†1800. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Bihar Division is incurring losses to the tune of lacs of rupees on account of telephone bills exceeding the fixed limits raised against the Members of the Telephone Advisory Committee of District Madhubani, Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of members of the Telephone Advisory Committee has exceeded its fixed number; and

(c) if so, the full details in this regard, year-wise, since the year 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, calls beyond the permissible free call limit are to be paid by the individual TAC member. As such no loss is caused on account of calls made exceeding the fixed free call limit. However, Rs. 1,47,624/- is outstanding against the TAC members as on 31.10.2007.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.